



**SAMHSA'S
GAINS
Center for**
**Behavioral Health and
Justice Transformation**



VETERAN PEER SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

What is it?



First of its kind Peer Specialist credential for veterans assisting veterans and their families

Developed as part of Florida's Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery grant project administered by the Florida Department of Children and Families

What does it do?



Designed for individuals in volunteer and paid peer support positions in community based agencies

Recognizes that “lived experience” is a form of expertise that can contribute to assisting persons to achieve and maintain recovery

Standards



**High School Diploma,
General Equivalency Degree or higher
500 hours of formal work and/or volunteer experience
with consumers of public or private mental health,
substance abuse or trauma services
40 total clock hours of specified education/training
divided among the following content areas. A
minimum of 2 hours must be earned for each content
area; the remaining 16 hours can be spread across
any of the topic areas.**

Training Content Areas



System Navigation and Service Access

Effective Advocacy

Legal Issues/Confidentiality/HIPPA

Interpersonal Communication

Stigma/Discrimination Issues

Cultural Competence

Adult Education/Teaching Skills

Professional Ethics

Community Reintegration

Identification and Treatment of Mental Health Disorders

**Identification and Treatment of Substance Abuse
Disorders**

Obtaining and Maintaining Credentials



3 letters of recommendation for certification
Must sign statement agreeing to follow the
FCB's Code of Ethics
Code of Ethics
10 CEUs annually for Renewal
Renewal

Number of Credentials Issued to Date - 29